

# **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF GAME  
Spokane Regional Office  
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### BIRD FEEDING TIPS

The feeding of birds in the winter months has been a favorite cold weather pastime for many people and gives Spokane area residents an opportunity to observe wildlife closeup. There are a variety of songbirds that one might expect to have visit their feeders in the city of Spokane. Among these are a variety of sparrows, juncos, chickadees, grosbeaks and finches. A bird seed mix is available at pet shops, nursery centers and grocery stores for these types of birds.

In some portions of the city and in rural areas, California Quail, Hungarian Partridge and Pheasants may be observed. In the wintertime these birds generally consume native foods such as rose hips, sunflower seeds, elderberry, wild cherry, snowberry and a variety of weed seeds. They also will eat cultivated grains, when available. Most people have no problem finding the songbird seed but may have some trouble finding the grain to feed the quail or pheasants. For this reason we have it available here at the Spokane Regional Game Department Office.

Some things to keep in mind while feeding any type of wildlife are to use the feed sparingly and to stretch the feedings out throughout the week. Also, it is best to feed the birds only during stress periods - i.e. extreme cold and/or deep, hard snow. During good weather we advise not feeding, so that the birds can obtain a variety of wild foods necessary for good nutrition. The purpose of bird feeding is to insure their survival and not to overfeed them. Heavy birds tend to be slowed and more easily subject to predator success by the neighborhood feline.

REMEMBER, whenever the prey species are congregated, so are the predators. Feed should be placed adjacent to or within areas of escape cover to insure they can feed unmolested. Feeding areas should be periodically moved to lessen potential disease/parasite outbreaks among the birds.

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